

CLAIMS:

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1. A gaming machine which includes
a display means including a plurality of display positions for
5 displaying combinations of symbols;
a control means for controlling operation of the machine, the control
means including a processing means for processing data and displaying
selected data on the display means; and
10 a selecting means operable by a player of the machine for enabling the
player to select at least one feature which can be added to a base game played
on the machine, an additional credit being staked by the player in order to be
eligible for said at least one feature.

2. The gaming machine of claim 1 in which the additional credit staked
by the player is a multiple of a base bet wagered by the player.
15 3. The gaming machine of claim 2 in which different multiples of the base
bet purchase different features.

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4. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which the
selecting means includes a plurality of selectors operable by the player to
select said at least one feature before making the base bet.
20 5. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which the
additional credit staked provides eligibility to a benefit provided by that
feature, there being no guarantee that the feature will eventuate merely by
having staked the additional credit.
6. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which the
25 feature is triggered independently of the base game.
7. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which the
selecting means enables a player to select a range of features to enable the
player to tailor the game to the player's requirements.
8. The gaming machine of claim 7 in which certain of the features are no-
30 cost features while other features require the staking of additional credit by
the player.

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9. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims which is a
multi-game machine having various games, the selecting means being used
by the player to select one of the games as the base game.
35 10. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which the
selecting means includes dedicated buttons on a keypad of the control means.

11. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which the selecting means includes touch sensors of a touch screen of a display means.

12. A gaming machine which includes

5 a display means including a plurality of display positions for displaying combinations of symbols;

a control means for controlling operation of the machine, the control means including a processing means for processing data and displaying selected data on the display means; and

10 a selecting means operable by a player of the machine for enabling the player to select at least one feature which can be added to a base game played on the machine, an additional credit staked by the player in order to be eligible for said at least one feature being a fixed amount multiplied by a bet wagered per line or per draw.

13. The gaming machine of claim 12 in which the selecting means includes
15 a plurality of selectors operable by the player to select the feature required before making a base bet.

14. The gaming machine of claim 12 or claim 13 in which the additional credit staked provides eligibility to a benefit provided by that feature, there being no guarantee that the feature will eventuate merely by having staked
20 the additional credit.

15. The gaming machine of any one of claims 12 to 14 inclusive, in which the feature is triggered independently of the base game.

16. The gaming machine of any one of claims 12 to 15 inclusive, in which the selecting means enables a player to select a range of features to enable the
25 player to tailor the game to the player's requirements.

17. The gaming machine of claim 16 in which certain of the features are no-cost features while other features require the staking of additional credit by the player.

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30 18. The gaming machine of any one of claims 12 to 17 inclusive, which is a multi-game machine having various games, the selecting means being used by the player to select one of the games as the base game.

19. The gaming machine of any one of claims 12 to 18 inclusive, in which the selecting means includes dedicated buttons on a keypad of the control means.

20. The gaming machine of any one of claims 12 to 19 inclusive, in which the selecting means includes touch sensors of a touch screen of a display means.
21. A gaming machine which includes
- 5 a display means including a plurality of display positions for displaying combinations of symbols;
- a control means for controlling operation of the machine, the control means including a processing means for processing data and displaying selected data on the display means; and
- 10 a selecting means, including a plurality of selectors operable by a player of the machine for enabling the player prior to making a base bet, for selecting a range of features to be added to a base game played on the machine to enable the player to tailor the game to the player's requirements.
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